[3rd March 1955

Restoration of the tank in Pulipattu

* 1059 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to restore the tank in Pulipattu village in Gingee taluk, South Arcot district?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The irrigation source has been investigated by the Food Production Engineering staff and the Executive Engineer (Food Production), Madras, has prepared and sent to the Superintending Engineer (Food Production) an estimate along with detailed plans for the work of restoration of the tank at the estimated cost of Rs. 40,000 for works or Rs. 51,808 including direct and indirect charges. The estimate has been returned by the Superintending Engineer to the Executive Engineer with some suggestions on the technical side for reducing the cost of the scheme. The estimate will be obtained from the Executive Engineer by the Superintending Engineer and submitted to the Commissioner of Food Production for according administrative sanction for the estimate. The work will be sanctioned under the Special Minor Irrigation Programme and taken up for execution by the Food Production Engineer staff in due course."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Question Nos. 1060 and 1061 can be taken up together."

Strike in a beedi factory in Palghat

* 1060 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a strike is going on in No. 6 Beedi Factory in Palghat, Malabar, since 16th October 1954;

(*b*) if so, the reasons for the strike;

(*c*) the conciliation measures taken by the Government in the strike; and

(*d*) whether it is a fact that a hunger strike is going on before the factory since 8th December 1954 in this connexion?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) No, Sir; but there was one till 12th December 1954.

" (*b*) It is reported that the strike was against the action of the management in opening a new branch and thereby reducing work in the original factory, instead of giving the workers in the original factory sufficient work.

" (*c*) The parties to the dispute were asked to be present for the conciliation by the Labour Officers on 2nd November 1954 and 2nd December 1954 but they did not appear for conciliation on either of the dates.